

07/01/04

2613

Application No. /496,061
Information Disclosure Statement

Customer No. 01933

Attorney Docket No. 00048/LH

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Date of Deposit: June 30, 2004

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): M. SUDO et al

Serial No. : 09/496,061

Filed : February 1, 2000

For : ENDOSCOPE IMAGE SENSING
METHOD AND APPARATUS

Art Unit : 2613

Examiner : Shawn S. An

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Daniel J. Bersohn

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper to Account No. 06-1378.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MS AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

S I R :

Submitted herewith are the following:

- (1) Copy of a Japanese Office Action issued in the counterpart Japanese application;
- (2) Copies of the cited documents; and
- (3) Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. It is requested that initialed copies of the Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B be returned to indicate that the documents listed therein have been considered and made of record.

An English translation of said Japanese Office Action is provided, thereby satisfying the requirements for a concise explanation of relevance for any non-English language documents cited therein (MPEP 609 III A(3)).

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(e) (1)

Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. Said communication bears a mailing date of May 18, 2004. Therefore, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is timely under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97(e) and does not require a fee.

It is respectfully requested that the attached documents be considered and made of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Dated: June 30, 2004

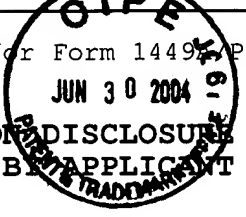
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

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|---|---|----|----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Substitute for Form 1449 PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  | | | Application Number | 09/496,061 | |
| | | | Filing Date | February 1, 2000 | |
| | | | First Named Inventor | M. SUDO | |
| | | | Group Art Unit | 2613 | |
| | | | Examiner Name | Shawn S. An | |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 | Attorney Docket Number | 00048/LH |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam. Inits [*] | Cite No ¹ | Document Number | Kind Code ² | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| | | | | | RECEIVED JUL 07 2004 Technology Center 2600 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exam Inits [*] | Cite No ¹ | Offc ³ | Document Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ | Name of Patentee or Applicant | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Relevant Portion | T ⁶ |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | JP | 8-46980 | A | | 02-16-1996 | | |
| | | JP | 6-125871 | A | | 05-10-1994 | | |
| | | JP | 6-315463 | A | | 11-15-1994 | | |
| | | | *English Language Abstract only | | | | | |

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
|--------------------|-----------------|

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: **June 30, 2004**